



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 799

January Session, 2009

* SB00799HED 031209 *

AN ACT CONCERNING COLLEGIATE LICENSE PLATES, GRADUATE PROGRAMS AT CHARTER OAK STATE COLLEGE AND REPORTS BY THE COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 14-19a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall adopt regulations in
4 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 to establish (1) standards
5 for the issuance of a special certificate of registration and special
6 number plates to a member of an organization which qualifies for
7 issuance, (2) qualifications of organizations whose members wish to
8 apply for such special registrations, (3) standards for the issuance of
9 number plates containing the logo or emblem of an institution of
10 higher education and the renewal of the registration certificate for a
11 motor vehicle for which such number plate is issued, (4) qualifications
12 of institutions of higher education for which such number plates are
13 requested, (5) procedures for application for such special registration,
14 and [(4)] (6) a fee for such special number plates which shall cover at
15 least the entire cost of making the plates and which shall be in addition
16 to the fee for registration of the motor vehicle. The regulations shall
17 provide that a labor union shall be a qualifying organization.

18 [(b) The Department of Motor Vehicles, in consultation with the

19 Board of Governors of the Department of Higher Education, shall
20 adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to
21 establish standards for the issuance and renewal of collegiate special
22 number plates with the logos or emblems of Connecticut public and
23 independent institutions of higher education to individuals who meet
24 the requirements established by the regulations adopted pursuant to
25 this subsection. The regulations shall: (1) Establish the criteria
26 necessary for a Connecticut institution of higher education to be
27 eligible to have a special number plate issued with the logo or emblem
28 of the institution; (2) provide for the issuance or renewal of such a
29 plate upon the receipt of a form certified by the institution that a
30 contribution of at least fifty dollars was made to a scholarship fund or
31 scholarship account at such an institution prior to each such issuance
32 and renewal. Each such renewal shall occur at the time of each renewal
33 of the motor vehicle's registration; (3) the fee established in subdivision
34 (4) of subsection (a) of this section; (4) any registration fee required by
35 the commissioner pursuant to section 14-12; and (5) any additional
36 information or fees required by the commissioner. All contributions to
37 the scholarship fund or scholarship account of a participating
38 institution of higher education shall be distributed on the basis of
39 financial need.]

40 [(c)] (b) On or after July 1, 2004, the commissioner may issue special
41 certificates of registration and special number plates in accordance
42 with the regulations adopted under subsection (a) of this section
43 provided [he] the commissioner may not issue a set of special number
44 plates bearing the same numerals as any other plate issued by the
45 department. The commissioner may discontinue the issuance of any
46 such special number plates issued for a qualified organization, or
47 special plates issued in accordance with the provisions of sections 14-
48 21f to 14-21p, inclusive, and section 2 of this act, at any time, upon
49 written notice to the organization if, in the opinion of the
50 commissioner, the demand for such plates is insufficient to support the
51 costs of production.

52 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2009*) (a) (1) On or after January 1,

53 2010, upon the demonstration by an institution of higher education in
54 this state that there is a demand for at least four hundred collegiate
55 commemorative number plates, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles
56 may issue a collegiate commemorative number plate with a design
57 containing the logo or emblem of such institution of higher education
58 as determined by such institution of higher education.

59 (2) Any regulation of the Department of Motor Vehicles that (A) is
60 in force on January 1, 2010, and (B) allows the Commissioner of Motor
61 Vehicles to issue collegiate special number plates with the logo or
62 emblem of an institution of higher education shall continue in force
63 and effect as a regulation with respect to any such special number
64 plate issued prior to January 1, 2010.

65 (3) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may adopt regulations, in
66 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to
67 establish standards for the issuance and renewal of collegiate number
68 plates with a design containing the logo or emblem of such institution
69 of higher education when an institution of higher education is unable
70 to demonstrate that there is a demand for at least four hundred such
71 collegiate number plates.

72 (b) If the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles establishes a collegiate
73 commemorative number plate for an institution of higher education
74 pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section, the
75 commissioner shall provide for a one-time fee of fifty-five dollars to be
76 charged for collegiate commemorative number plates in addition to
77 the regular fee or fees prescribed for the registration of a motor vehicle.
78 Fifteen dollars of such one-time fee shall be allocated to the
79 Department of Motor Vehicles to be used for the administrative costs
80 of carrying out the provisions of this section. Such number plates shall
81 have letters and numbers selected by the commissioner. The
82 commissioner may establish a higher fee for: (1) Such number plates
83 that contain any combination of letters or numbers requested by the
84 registrant as authorized by section 14-49 of the general statutes, in
85 addition to the fee or fees prescribed for plates issued under said

86 section; and (2) such number plates that are low number plates, in
87 accordance with section 14-160 of the general statutes, in addition to
88 the fee or fees prescribed for plates issued under said section 14-160.

89 (c) The biennial renewal fee for the registration certificate of a motor
90 vehicle for which a collegiate commemorative number plate has been
91 issued pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section shall
92 include, in each renewal year subsequent to the year of issuance, a
93 collegiate commemorative number plate fee in the amount of fifty-five
94 dollars, of which five dollars shall be allocated for administrative costs
95 to the Department of Motor Vehicles, which shall be in addition to the
96 fee for the renewal of registration certificate. No additional renewal fee
97 shall be charged for renewal of registration for any motor vehicle
98 bearing collegiate commemorative number plates that contain letters in
99 place of numbers, or low number plates, in excess of the renewal fee
100 for collegiate commemorative number plates with letters and numbers
101 selected by the commissioner. No additional fee shall be charged for
102 the transfer of an existing registration to or from a registration with a
103 collegiate commemorative number plate.

104 (d) If the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles establishes a collegiate
105 commemorative number plate for an institution of higher education
106 pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section, the
107 commissioner shall establish an account for such institution pursuant
108 to subsection (e) of this section and shall deposit into such account all
109 fees, other than those moneys designated for administrative costs of
110 the Department of Motor Vehicles, that are established and collected
111 pursuant to this section for the issuance of such commemorative
112 number plate or renewal of the registration certificate of a motor
113 vehicle for which such commemorative number plate has been issued.

114 (e) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall establish an account
115 for each institution of higher education for which the commissioner
116 has established a commemorative number plate pursuant to
117 subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section. Each such account shall
118 be a separate, nonlapsing account within the General Fund. Such

119 account shall contain any moneys required to be deposited in the
120 account pursuant to this section. The moneys in each such account
121 shall be distributed quarterly by the commissioner to the institution of
122 higher education for which the account is established. Such institutions
123 of higher education shall expend funds received from such accounts to
124 provide funding for scholarships on the basis of financial need and for
125 alumni outreach efforts.

126 Sec. 3. Subsection (c) of section 10a-143 of the general statutes is
127 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
128 *October 1, 2009*):

129 (c) There shall continue to be a Board for State Academic Awards
130 which shall be an independent constituent unit of the state system of
131 higher education with authority to grant undergraduate and graduate
132 credits and degrees on the basis of (1) examinations, (2) courses offered
133 by Charter Oak State College, and (3) other forms of evaluation and
134 validation of learning, including transfer of credit. Said board is
135 authorized to use the term "Charter Oak State College" on diplomas
136 and other documents and utterances to affirm the status of the board
137 as a degree-granting institution of higher education. It shall be the
138 responsibility of the board to serve the interest of all Connecticut
139 residents by providing open access to academic credentials which are
140 based on a consensus of professional judgment. The purpose of such
141 credentials shall be to identify and give recognition to higher learning
142 acquired by individuals through independent study, work experience
143 and programs of noncollegiate educational activity.

144 Sec. 4. Subsection (e) of section 10a-143 of the general statutes is
145 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
146 *1, 2009*):

147 (e) (1) The Board for State Academic Awards shall develop and
148 implement programs to improve opportunities in higher education
149 through alternative modes of service, including, but not limited to,
150 guidance and information services, registration and validation

151 services, examination and degree-granting services, technological
152 delivery systems, and projects of research and development. With
153 respect to its own operation the board may appoint and remove an
154 executive director, who shall be the chief academic and administrative
155 officer, and a professional academic staff. The board may determine
156 the size of the academic staff and the duties, terms, and conditions of
157 employment of said director and staff subject to personnel guidelines
158 established by the Board of Governors of Higher Education in
159 consultation with the Board for State Academic Awards. The board
160 shall establish through appointments on an adjunct basis a faculty of
161 consulting examiners to make recommendations as to requirements
162 and standards of the board's programs and to make recommendations
163 for the award of academic undergraduate and graduate credits and
164 degrees. Persons serving as members of the faculty of consulting
165 examiners shall have appropriate professional qualifications as
166 determined by the board and may hold professional appointments in
167 active status at accredited institutions of postsecondary or higher
168 learning. Within the limit of appropriations, the board shall fix the
169 compensation of persons serving with adjunct appointment as
170 members of the faculty of consulting examiners. The board shall confer
171 such undergraduate and graduate certificates and degrees as are
172 appropriate to programs of postsecondary and higher learning and in
173 accordance with the recommendations of the board's faculty of
174 consulting examiners on the basis of (A) examinations, (B) courses
175 offered by Charter Oak State College, and (C) other forms of validation
176 and evaluation of learning, including transfer of credit. The board shall
177 assist public institutions of higher education in establishing and
178 implementing procedures to award college credits pursuant to
179 subsection (a) of this section.

180 (2) The Board for State Academic Awards shall develop a mission
181 statement which shall include, but not be limited to, the following
182 elements: (A) The educational needs of, and constituencies served by
183 the board; (B) the degrees offered by the board; and (C) the role and
184 scope of the programs offered by the board. The board shall submit the

mission statement to the Board of Governors of Higher Education for review and approval in accordance with the provisions of section 10a-6.

Sec. 5. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2010, the Commissioner of Higher Education shall prepare a report on issues concerning remediation programs in institutions of higher education and shall submit such report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

Sec. 6. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Higher Education shall study issues concerning racial and ethnic disparities among students at institutions of higher education in this state. Not later than January 1, 2010, the Commissioner of Higher Education shall report on such study to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	14-19a
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	10a-143(c)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	10a-143(e)
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	New section

HED *Joint Favorable Subst.*